

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. The Examiner checked the box for drawings and indicated that they were filed on October 7, 2005. As there is no objection to the drawings, Applicant assumes that they are accepted. Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) and indicating receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for returning an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form filed on October 7, 2005, thereby indicating that the Examiner has considered the references listed thereon.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner stated that the specification contains “grammatical and idiomatic errors.” However, the Examiner did not identify any particular flaws requiring correction. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification is sufficiently clear to be understandable.

If the Examiner requests, Applicant will correct any flaws the Examiner specifically points out. In the absence of any specific flaws, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Onishi (U.S. 5,859,845). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection without amendment for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, “the front electrical control unit converts a communication protocol of the control signal from a communication protocol of the main bus

line into a communication protocol of the sub bus line”. Oniishi does not disclose or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Oniishi discloses a vehicle load control system which multiplexes control signals and sends the multiplexed signals over a multiplex transmission line. The load control sections which receive this multiplexed signal “control the electric power fed to a corresponding one of loads on the basis of the thus received control signal”. Col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 1.

In order to control the electric power, Oniishi teaches “control means which control the electric power fed to the corresponding load on the basis of the received control signal with reference to the configuration data stored in the storage means”. Col. 3, lines 10-13. Furthermore, “the control section 10b converts the received control signal [and]...outputs a drive signal to a drive section 10e”. Col. 7, lines 20-27. Thus, in Oniishi, although a control signal is multiplexed and is used as the basis for controlling electric power, it is not converted from one communication protocol into another in the transmission lines as required by claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that Oniishi does not disclose or suggest “convert[ing] a communication protocol of the control signal from a communication protocol of the main bus line into a communication protocol of the sub bus line”. The communication protocol of the control signal is not converted between any of the sections. The control signal is multiplexed as discussed above, and it is used to control electric power, but the signal itself is not converted to a different communication protocol.

The Examiner argues that Oniishi discloses this feature in the drawings. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner does not cite to any specific figure, and Applicant submits that none of the figures shows “convert[ing] a communication protocol” as required by claim 1 and discussed above. Therefore, since the figures in Oniishi do not clearly show at least this

claimed feature, Oniishi does not satisfy the requirements of MPEP § 2125, cited by the Examiner in the second paragraph of page 5.

Oniishi does not disclose or suggest at least the above feature of claim 1, and so Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 102 rejection of claim 1. Claims 2-3, 5 and 11, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4 and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Oniishi as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Imaizumi (U.S. 5,978,352). Applicant respectfully submits that Imaizumi does not cure the deficient disclosure of Oniishi with respect to independent claim 1.

The Examiner relies on Oniishi to allegedly teach the features of claim 1. However, as argued above, Applicant submits that Oniishi does not disclose or suggest all features of claim 1. Since claims 4 and 6-10 depend from claim 1, the Examiner must show that all features of these claims, including the features of claim 1, are disclosed or inherent in the combined teachings of Oniishi and Imaizumi. The Examiner has not made this showing, nor are all of the claimed features present in said combination.

The Examiner asserts that Imaizumi discloses multiple slave (auxiliary) and master units in a multiplexing transmission system. However, the Examiner does not state or suggest that Imaizumi teaches the conversion of the communication protocol in the transmission lines. Applicant respectfully submits that Imaizumi does not disclose or suggest this feature. As such, the combination of Oniishi and Imaizumi does not teach all features of claim 1, and thus, of

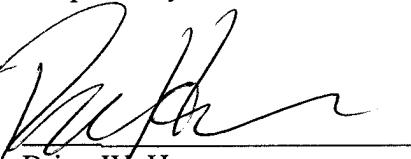
claims 4 and 6-10, which depend from claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 4 and 6-10.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Hannon
Registration No. 32,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 9, 2009